

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORTREPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

CONFIDENTIAL

DATE DISTR. 1 MAR 51

SUBJECT Forestry Preserves in the Rodopi
Mountains

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1. The Bealst Forestry Preserve and lumber mills are located at the village of Kovachovitsa. The preserve is state-owned and in the summer months it employs about 700 to 800 workers; in the winter months the number of workers drops to about 200. The lumber produced is almost exclusively pine.

2. Equipment of the lumber mills consists of two rip-saws, one buzz-saw, one automatic plane and two steam engines.

3. The following quantities of lumber were produced at this preserve:

1940 -	10,000	cubic meters of pine lumber
1947 -	28,000	" " " "
1948 -	35,000	" " " "
1949 -	45,000	" " " "
1950 -	55,000	" " " " (estimated).

4. The output for 1950, by category of lumber, was as follows:

50%	of the lumber	- plank 2x6
17%	" " "	- beams
5%	" " "	- shipwrights lumber
3%	" " "	- hay-rack lumber
23%	" " "	- mine shaft lumber
2%	" " "	- telephone and telegraph poles

A special section of the lumber mills is devoted to the production of railroad ties. The output at present amounts to 220 ties per day.

5. The enterprise is directed by Stanko Iliev.

6. Vishteritsa Forestry Preserve is located 50 kilometers south of Velingrad. It is equipped with one rip-saw. Annual output for 1950 is estimated to reach 45,000 cubic meters of lumber.

7. Rakitovo Forestry Preserve is located at the village of Rakitovo and the production for 1950 is estimated to reach 50,000 cubic meters of lumber.

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8. The hands employed at the forestry preserves in the Rodopi mountains are, in their majority, local inhabitants of the villages in the vicinity. Because most preserves are located in secluded areas, a number of anti-Communists and individuals persecuted by the regime have found refuge there under the guise of forest workers. Procurement of supplies in these areas is very hard.
9. With the advent of the Communist regime, exploitation of forestry preserves has been intensified without regard for forest preservation. As a result, the forests in the Rodopi mountains are rapidly disappearing and little effort is made to plant new trees.
10. Forestry personnel is of the opinion that excess lumber production is being shipped to satellite countries and the Soviet Union. All mineshaft lumber between 11 and 19 centimeters in width is said to be destined for the Soviet Union.
11. Prices of lumber in 1950 on the local market were: Planks - 35,000 leva per cubic meter; beams - 24,000 leva per cubic meter; hay-rack lumber - 24,000 leva per cubic meter.

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